



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

physical conditions of the communities in which they do their work. The social life of many village and rural communities emphatically needs "centers," and the plea for practical and devoted work on the part of the country minister cannot be too often or too strongly made.

This is a day of "surveys" and social statistics, and it is to be hoped that good will grow out of them. The question, however, inevitably arises, Who is to do all the work? Considerations relating to the salaries and educational equipment of country teachers fail to give much encouragement, nor are we likely to "change all that" by a French Revolutionary miracle. On the other hand, it is heartening to reflect that the work of one good and efficient worker spreads far in widening circles; and a well-made tool of inquiry does not come amiss. The book takes up almost every conceivable aspect of community life from soil and temperature to politics and recreation. Each chapter is the work of a writer of some authority upon the particular subject discussed, and to each is appended a list of questions regarding one's own community—questions which, simple as they are, may reveal a pitiful inadequacy of information about things vital and near at hand, on the part of him who lightly essays to answer them. The inquirer is also furnished with suggestive bibliographies.

---

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES. By JOHN SPENCER BASSETT, Ph.D., Professor of American History in Smith College. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1913.

Falling, in size and scope, between the ordinary school text or skeleton outline and the more comprehensive histories of many volumes, this book of Dr. Bassett's is convenient and desirable from the standpoint of the general reader as well as that of the college student. Despite a certain occasional awkwardness of style, to which the modern scientific historian, like other scientists, is somewhat prone, the narrative is thoroughly readable. Those who have read little history since their school days will especially note a certain breadth and freshness of treatment. Indeed, there is hardly a page in the book which does not show the effect of modern research in regard to either matters of fact or point of view. Political history furnishes the framework of the narrative, as it must; but the volume contains at intervals summaries of the habits and social progress of the people, and the public welfare is never forgotten. The author has aimed to write a social history, and his success in this respect will satisfy most readers. The narrative extends to and includes the administration of Taft, and among the modern topics discussed are trusts, Chinese immigration, relations with Japan, the war with Spain, the Isthmian canal, and Roosevelt's corporation policy.